

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-16, 27 and 29-34 from the application without prejudice.

1. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a fiber from a molten viscous liquid; comprising the steps of:

extruding a stream of a molten viscous liquid in a manner so as to flow from a supply source into a pressure chamber wherein the stream has a first circumference;

supplying a focusing fluid to the pressure chamber whereby the fluid enters through an entrance port of the pressure chamber and exits through an exit port of the pressure chamber;

wherein the focusing fluid surrounds the stream of molten viscous fluid and draws the stream having a first circumference to a narrowed stream having a second circumference narrower than the first circumference, which narrowed stream is expelled from the exit port of the pressure chamber as a fiber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the molten viscous liquid is molten silica glass.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the focusing fluid is a gas.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the gas is a heated inert gas.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the gas exits the exit opening of the pressure chamber at supersonic speed.

22. – 34. (Canceled)